SONY

BD/DVD/CD Rewritable Drive

Operating Instructions

- ❍ User's Guide

BDX-S500U

- Please note that older browsers may not display these pages properly.

- The contents of this manual are subject to change without notice.

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Table of Contents

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- Other system and product names used herein are registered trademarks or trademarks of their

  respective manufacturers, although the ™ and ® marks are not used in the text.

- Our product warranty is valid only when the supplied accessories (including software) are used in

the specified or recommended system environment, in accordance with the documentation, and applies only to this BD/DVD/CD rewritable drive. Our customer service and user support apply only under these product warranty conditions.

- Please note that we cannot accept responsibility for failure of the computer or other devices, incompatibility with special hardware, operating problems caused by improper installation of software, loss of data, discs or other accidental or incidental damage that might occur when using this product.

- The guarantee and user support for this product are valid only within the countries or sales regions specified on the warranty card.

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- We cannot accept responsibility for any direct or indirect financial damage or loss of profit that might occur when using the supplied software.

- The supplied software can only be used with this product.

- Specifications of the supplied software may be changed without notice in the interest of product improvement.
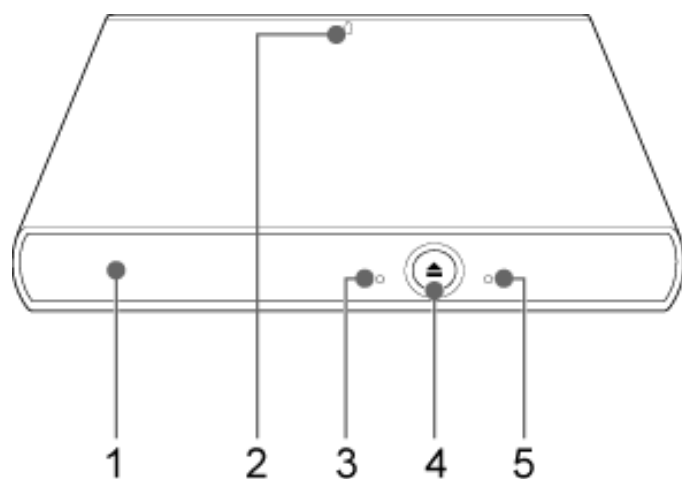
Please Record Responsibly

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Part Names and Functions

Front Panel

1 Disc tray

Load a disc here.

For details about the compatible disc types, see "Compatible Discs".

2 Power Indicator

Indicates the power status.

Lit: The AC power adapter is supplying power to the drive.

3 Busy indicator

Indicates the drive status.

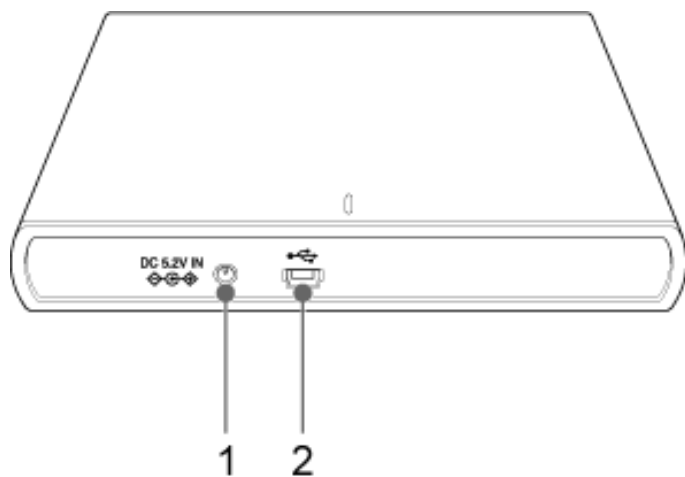| Lit/blinking	The drive is writing or reading data.
Off	The drive is in a state other than those outlined above.

4 Eject Button

Press to open the disc tray.

5 Emergency Eject Hole

If you cannot open the disc tray with the eject button, turn off the drive, and then insert a thin,

elongated object into this hole to eject the disc tray manually.

Rear Panel

1 DC IN Jack

Connect the supplied AC power cord to the AC power adapter. Connect this assembly to the DC IN

jack, and then connect the whole to the AC outlet.

2 USB Connector

Used with a USB cable to connect the drive to a computer or another USB device.

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Setup

Connection

1. Start your computer.

2. Connect the necessary cables.

- ❍ Connect the USB cable to the drive's USB connector.

- ❍ Connect the supplied AC power cord to the supplied AC power adapter. Then connect the AC

  power adapter to the drive's DC IN jack, and connect the power cord to the power outlet.
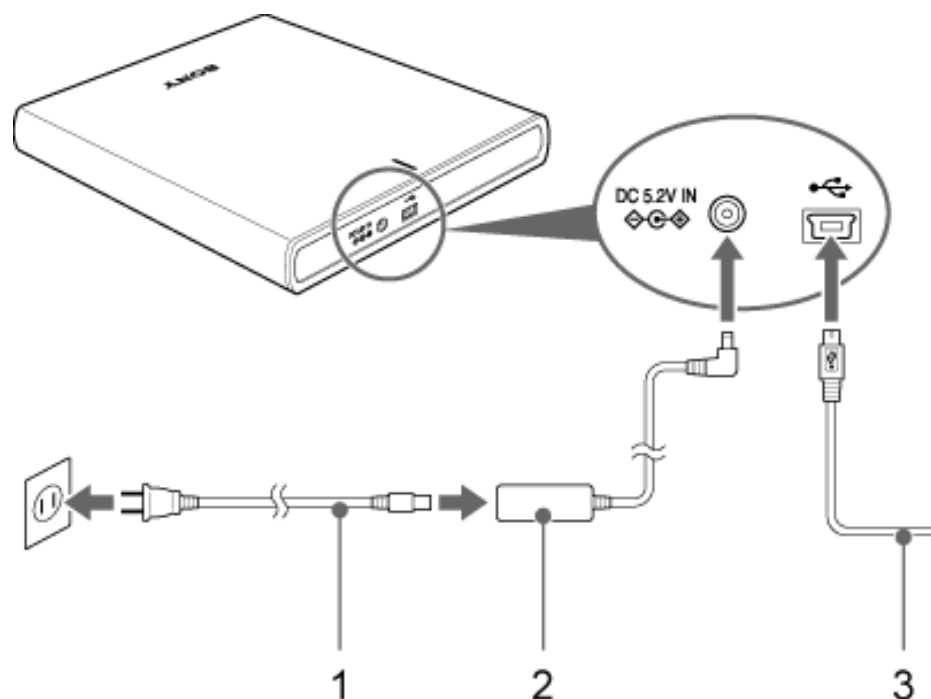
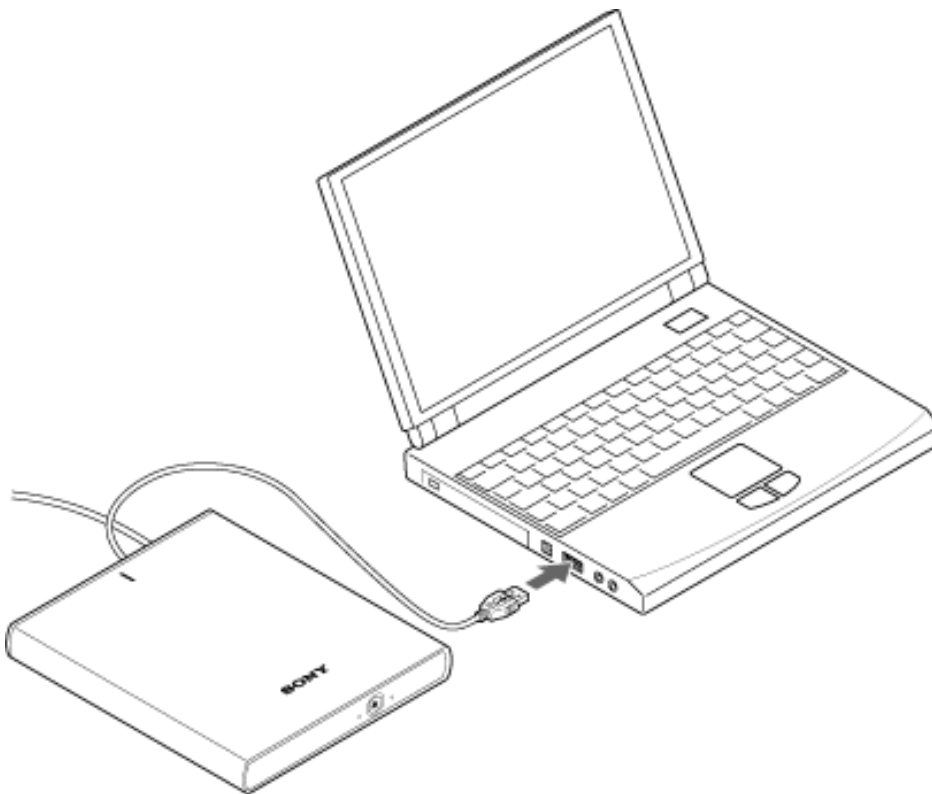1. AC power cord

2. AC power adapter

3. USB Cable

Note

This drive does not have a power switch. The drive turns on when connected to a power supply with

the AC power adapter.

3. Connect the other end of the USB cable to your computer.

Note

Connect the drive to a USB connector on the computer.

4. When the computer is ready, confirm that the drive is detected.

5. Insert the supplied software disc into the drive and install the writing software.

Disconnection

The disconnection's procedure varies depending on your OS.

When your computer detects the drive successfully, (or depending on your OS) appears on the

Windows task bar. When you want to disconnect the drive, you must first stop it using this icon.

1. Click ( ) on the task bar, and click the drive to be disconnected on the

shortcut menu.

2. Operate following the message displayed, if any.

3. Disconnect the USB cable.

Note

If you disconnect the USB cable without performing the procedure above, your computer may operate

erratically or data may be damaged. Be sure to perform the procedure above before disconnecting

the USB cable.

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Using the Drive

Use the supplied software with the drive. Refer to the instruction of each software for details about their operation.

Using Generic Software with the Drive

Using software other than the supplied software (such as generic software, shareware, or freeware) to write data to disc with this drive is not under warranty and Sony offers no customer service if problems arise from using such software.

Make sure that the supplied writing software and generic writing software do not coexist on your computer. Taking appropriate steps to avoid this situation, especially in the case of packet writing software or a format utility will help prevent erratic operation of the software and/or computer.

If the generic software you are using does not detect the drive correctly, visit the Web site of the software manufacturer and update the software, as this may solve the problem.

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Compatible Discs

Recommended Writable Discs | Writable Disc Features

The following discs are compatible with the drive.

BD
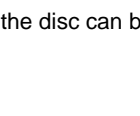
Disc types	Logo	Read	Write
BD-R 25GB	Blu-ray Disc	✔	✔
BD-R 25GB LTH Type	Blu-ray Disc	✔	✔
BD-R 50GB	Blu-ray Disc	✔	✔
BD-RE 25GB	Blu-ray Disc	✔	✔
BD-RE 50GB	Blu-ray Disc	✔	✔
BD-ROM[1]	Blu-ray Disc	✔	–

1) A system environment sufficient to meet the demands of BD-ROM playback is required.

Note

The drive cannot record to or playback the cartridge-encased discs that support BD-RE Ver.1.0 (Blu-ray Disc Rewritable Format Ver.1.0).

DVD

Disc types	Logo	Read	Write
DVD+R	RW DVD+R	✔	✔
DVD+R DL (Double Layer)	RW DVD+R DL	✔	✔
DVD+RW	RW DVD+ReWritable	✔	✔
DVD+RW (High Speed)	RW High Speed DVD+ReWritable	✔	✔
DVD-R	DVD R	✔	✔
DVD-R DL (Dual Layer)	DVD R R DL	✔	✔
DVD-RW[1)	DVD R/RW	✔	✔
DVD-RAM[2)	DVD RAM	✔	✔
DVD-ROM	DVD ROM	✔	–
DVD-Video	DVD VIDEO	✔	–

1) This drive is compatible with the DVD-RW disc displaying **RW 2** mark.

2) Use a non-cartridge-type disc or a cartridge from which the disc can be ejected.

CD

Disc types	Logo	Read	Write

Type	Logo	Read	Write
CD-R	COMPACT disc Recordable	✔	✔
CD-RW	COMPACT disc ReWritable	✔	✔
CD-RW (High Speed)	COMPACT disc ReWritable High Speed	✔	✔
CD-RW (Ultra Speed)	COMPACT disc ReWritable Ultra Speed	✔	✔
CD-ROM	COMPACT disc	✔	–
CD-DA (audio only)	COMPACT disc DIGITAL AUDIO	✔	–
CD Extra	CD EXTRA ™	✔	–
Video CD	VIDEO CD	✔	–

Disc diameters		Read	Write
BD	12 cm	✔	✔
	8 cm	–	–
DVD	12 cm	✔	✔
	8 cm	✔	✔
CD	12 cm	✔	✔
	8 cm	✔	✔

Note

- Only round discs should be used with this drive. Attempting to read odd-shaped discs (stars, hearts, card shape, etc.) may damage the drive.

Recommended Writable Discs

We recommend that you use Sony-brand discs.

Note

You can safely use most disc formats that comply to the appropriate standards with this drive.

However, bear in mind that some generic discs do not comply to quality or performance standards necessary for safe use with this drive. If you use such discs, the drive may automatically

adjust the writing speed, writing errors may occur, and discs that have been written to may generate reading errors, etc.

Writable Disc Features

Writable CDs and compatibility

The drive can write to CD-R and CD-RW discs, when used with writing software. To play back (read) these CD-R and CD-RW discs on other CD-ROM drives, make settings on the writing

software according to the purpose of the data.

CD-R Discs

Data can be written to this type of disc only once, and once it has been written, it cannot be erased. Music CDs created on CD-R disc media can be played on standard CD players.

CD-RW Discs

Data can be written to and erased from this type of disc repeatedly. Typically, a new CD-RW disc can be rewritten about 1,000 times.

Music CDs created on CD-RW disc media cannot be played on a CD player unless it is designed to be CD-RW compatible.

High Speed CD-RW Discs

The drive can write to High Speed CD-RW disc media. Data written on High Speed CD-RW discs can be read by standard CD-ROM drives.

Note

Drives that do not have the High Speed CD-RW logo cannot be used to write to High Speed CD-RW discs. When writing or adding to such discs with a drive other than this one, make sure

that the drive has the High Speed CD-RW logo. Also, always set the writing speed to that specified for the particular High Speed CD-RW disc media being used.

Ultra Speed CD-RW Discs

The drive can write to Ultra Speed CD-RW disc media. Data written on Ultra Speed CD-RW discs can be read by standard CD-ROM drives.

Note

Drives that do not have the Ultra Speed CD-RW logo cannot be used to write to Ultra Speed CD-RW discs. When writing or adding to such discs with a drive other than this one, make sure

that the drive has the Ultra Speed CD-RW logo. Also, always set the writing speed to that specified for the particular Ultra Speed CD-RW disc media being used.

Writing Speed

When writing to CD-R and CD-RW discs, set the writing speed to that specified on the disc. Change the writing speed on the writing software.

About playback/reading compatibility in CDs

CD-R and CD-RW discs created with the drive can be read on most CD-ROM drives. However, some older CD-ROM drives cannot read CD-RW discs.

In addition, CD-R music discs created and finalized with the drive can be played on most CD players, however, there are some CD players and automobile CD players that do not guarantee

playback of CD-R discs.

Also, CD-R music discs created with the drive can be played back on many standard CD players. However, depending on the type of your player, playback of CD-R and CD-RW discs may not

be supported.

Further, because of the differences in quality and characteristics between various CD-ROM drive, CD player, CD-R disc, and CD-RW disc manufacturers, playback may not be possible

depending on the combination.

Writable DVDs and compatibility

The drive can write to DVD+R DL, DVD+R, DVD-R DL and DVD-R discs, as well as to DVD+RW, DVD-RW and DVD-RAM discs, when used with writing software. The playback (read)

compatibility of data written by this drive depends on the capabilities of the DVD-ROM drives or the DVD players and on the logical format selected when the disc is recorded (written).

DVD+R DL/DVD+R/DVD-R DL/DVD-R Discs

Data can be written to this type of disc only once. Once it has been written, it cannot be erased. Playback (read) compatibility of DVD+R and DVD-R discs depends on the capability of the

DVD-ROM drive and the DVD player and on the logical format selected when it is recorded (written).

DVD+RW and DVD-RW Discs

Data can be repeatedly written to or erased from this type of disc. Typically, a new DVD+RW or DVD-RW disc can be rewritten about 1,000 times. Playback (read) compatibility of DVD+RW

and DVD-RW discs depends on the capability of the DVD-ROM drive and the DVD player and on the logical format selected when it is recorded (written).

DVD-RAM Discs

Data can be repeatedly written to or erased from this type of disc. Typically, a new DVD-RAM disc can be rewritten about 100,000 times. To play back (or read the data on) a DVD-RAM disc,

a DVD-ROM drive or DVD player that supports DVD-RAM discs is required.

About playback/reading compatibility in DVDs

DVD+R DL/DVD+R/DVD-R DL/DVD-R discs, as well as DVD+RW and DVD-RW discs created and finalized with the drive can be played back on almost all DVD-ROM drives. However

depending on the type of your drive, playback of DVD+R DL, DVD+RW, DVD-R DL, and DVD-RW discs may not be supported.

In addition, some drives do not support multi-session (DVD+R DL/DVD+R/ DVD+RW) or multi-border (DVD-R DL/DVD-R/DVD-RW). In these cases, you can only play back the disc in single-

session (DVD+R DL/DVD+R/DVD+RW) or single-border (DVD-R DL/DVD-R/DVD-RW).

Also, DVD-Video discs created with the drive can be played back on many standard DVD players. However depending on the type of your player, playback of DVD+RW and DVD-RW discs

may not be supported.

Playback of DVD-RAM discs is only supported for DVD-RAM compatible DVD drives and DVD players.

Further, because of the differences in quality and characteristics between various DVD-ROM drive, DVD player, DVD+R DL disc, DVD+R disc, DVD+RW disc, DVD-R DL disc, DVD-R disc,

DVD-RW disc and DVD-RAM disc manufacturers, playback may not be possible depending on the combination. (Playback compatibility is not under warranty.)

Writable BDs and compatibility

This drive can write to BD-R 25GB, BD-R 50GB, BD-RE 25GB, and BD-RE 50GB discs when used with writing software. Data can be written to BD-R 25GB and BD-R 50GB discs only once,

and once it has been written, it cannot be erased. With BD-RE 25GB and BD-RE 50GB discs, data can be written and erased repeatedly.

Note

This drive can write data in BDAV/BDMV format to BD-R 25GB, BD-R 50GB, BD-RE 25GB and BD-RE 50GB discs.

It cannot record to or playback the cartridge-encased discs that support BD-RE Ver.1.0 (Blu-ray Disc Rewritable Format Ver.1.0).

Players designed for use with BD-RE Ver.1.0 discs cannot play back BDs created with this drive.

About Playback Compatibility

BD-RE/R discs recorded with the drive and the bundled software may not play back on other BD devices. Consult the manufacturer of your BD device.

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Precautions on Writing/Playing Discs

Write speed and compatible discs

- When writing data to disc at high speeds, you must use the appropriate type of disc.

- Configure the writing speed through your writing software. For details about the setting procedures, refer to your writing software documentation.

- When writing data to disc, the drive may adjust the writing speed to the quality of the disc in the drive. Depending on the transfer rate, there may also be limitations on writing speeds.

BD/DVD region codes

The playback of BD/DVD-Video (BD/DVD discs) is protected and controlled by a region code setting. For the drive to play back BD/DVD-Video, the region code on the BD/DVD disc, the region code of the drive, and the region code of the BD/DVD-Video software must all match.

The region code can be set up to five times, including the initial assignment. After setting the region code five times, the setting becomes permanent and can no longer be changed.

From this point on, you are only able to play back DVD-Video whose region code matches the one set the fifth time.

Do not attempt to make unauthorized changes to the region code. Any problems resulting from doing so are not covered by the warranty.

Hint

BD: You can change the region code on its BD-Video software.

DVD: You can change the region code of the drive on its properties dialog box accessible from the Device

Manager.

Precautions when playing back DVD-Video

DVD-Video disc playback conditions are sometimes determined by software manufacturers. Because the drive plays back discs as determined by software manufacturers, some drive functions may not always perform as expected. When playing back DVD-Video, refer to the documentation accompanying each disc.

DVD copy protection technology

Most DVD-Video discs on the market are protected against unauthorized copy. Attempting to copy protected discs violates copyright laws.

Copy controlled CDs

This product is designed to play back discs conforming to the compact disc (CD) standard. Audio CDs encoded with copyright protection technology are now marketed by various record companies. Be aware that some of these discs do not conform to the CD standard and you may not be able to play them back with the drive. When using the drive as an audio CD player, only use audio CDs with the following mark. Some of these discs are encoded in such a way as to prevent sampling and/or copy, while others can only be played back under certain conditions. For details, refer to the documentation of your audio CD.

Attention Regarding DualDisc Software

A DualDisc is a two sided disc product which mates DVD recorded material on one side with digital audio material on the other side.

However, since the audio material side does not conform to the Compact Disc (CD) standard, playback on this product is not guaranteed.

About BDAV/BDMV format Playback Compatibility

Video recorded in BDAV/BDMV format can only be played back on Consumer BD players or BD player software which support BD-R/RE playback feature.

About "Blu-ray 3D" playback

This drive supports playback of "Blu-ray 3D" disc titles. To playback the "Blu-ray 3D" disc titles, the drive

should be used with a system that meets the specified requirements. For details, refer to the information

supplied from the software manufacturer.

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Precautions for Use

Operation and storage conditions

Avoid using or storing the drive in a hot or humid location, or where it might be subject to severe vibration

or direct sunlight.

On transportation

- Please repack the drive in its original carton when shipping by itself.

- If the drive is to be shipped while installed in a PC, remove any disc beforehand.

Avoiding condensation problems

As much as possible, avoid sudden temperature changes. Do not attempt to use the drive immediately

after moving it from a cold to a warm location, or raising the room temperature suddenly, as condensation

may form within the drive. If the temperature changes suddenly while using the drive, stop using it but

keep the power on for at least an hour.

Handling discs

- Handle discs only by the edges. Never touch the recording surface.

- Do not affix labels on discs.

- Do not store discs in dusty, dirty or humid locations, in direct sunlight, or near heat-generating devices.

- To protect important data, always keep discs in their protective cases.

- Do not wipe writable discs to clean them before recording data. Instead, use a blower to remove any

  dust.

- Data may not record properly if a scratch or dust is present on the unrecorded area of writable discs.

  Use special care when handling.

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Cleaning

Cabinet | Discs | Disc Cleaning Precautions

Cabinet

Wipe dirt from the cabinet with a soft dry cloth. For heavy dirt, wipe with a cloth moistened with synthetic

detergent. Do not use thinner, benzene or alcohol, which could damage the surface finish.

Discs

Wipe dirt from discs using a soft cloth, from the center of the disc toward the outside.

For heavy dirt, moisten a soft cloth with water and wring it out before wiping, then remove the moisture

with a dry cloth.

Do not use benzene, vinyl record cleaner or antistatic solutions that could cause scratches on the disc.

Disc Cleaning Precautions

- Do not wipe recordable discs to clean them before recording data. Instead, use a blower to remove

  any dust.

- Data may not record properly if a scratch or dust is present on the unrecorded area of recordable discs. Use special care when handling.

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Product and Support Information

Technical Support

Please consult the website before calling with questions about using this product, or with technical

questions about the drive or the supplied software. If using telephone or e-mail support, please have the

following information available:

- Model number:

- Serial number

- Date and place of purchase

- Computer maker and model number

- Computer specifications (CPU speed, memory size, OS version, etc.)

- Writing software used (version, etc.)

Local technical support is only available in the specified sales regions. The customers in these regions should be provided with a warranty card for this product. For contact information, refer to the warranty card.

Note that technical support conditions may vary according to the locality, and that charges and/or limited service may apply in some regions.